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## Dementia 1

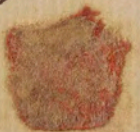
There is a disease of the mind which is called  
by M. K. "Dementia". The word is derived from  
the Latin "Dementia" which signifies madness.

- I object to the word as it refers to the disease  
to the grade of the derangement of the Under-  
standing of which we have treated. I am at  
a loss for <sup>an appropriate</sup> name for it, but I shall describe it.

It consists not like some grade of <sup>general</sup> madness,  
in false perceptions, but in a constant <sup>or</sup> perception  
of <sup>such</sup> perceptions as are true, but wholly  
unrelated to each other. There is not only  
an Absence of <sup>a power to recall</sup> ~~selected~~ objects, but a total  
Absence of judgement, and reason. In short  
the disease occupies the Surface of the mind only,  
- and consists in isolated perceptions <sup>repeatedly</sup> excited  
by the external senses. This disease is  
now & then met with in hospitals, but



+ The celebrated Lovatus was affected <sup>with it</sup>  
and tho' he wrote with order, and  
correctness, yet his conversation was  
a mass of incoherent subjects delir-  
-ious and even actions of his whole body up-  
-held with gestures that indicated  
~~down his own - & up against his friends.~~  
a Degree of madness. I shall read to you  
a short account of a visit paid to him at  
Zurich by an English Clergyman in <sup>wh</sup> 17.  
he exemplified this state of mind. in





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more frequently in social life. There is  
no City - village, ~~nor~~ <sup>that</sup> Country place does  
not furnish an instance of it. ~~It is~~

Persons who are afflicted with it in Scotland  
are said to have a bee in their bonnet. In  
this Country we call the same state of the  
mind, flightiness. <sup>+</sup> You will be able to under-  
stand the nature of the disease & probably to  
apply it to some person within your  
knowledge while I deliver the following  
short history of it. <sup>A</sup> The person under the  
influence of this disease of the mind is  
always in motion. He rises early, calls his  
servants from their beds - Dives & scolds them  
until they put his house in order - is  
unable to sit still - rings for his breakfast -  
- calls out afterwards to his neighbours,  
or to places of public resort - speaks to



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every person he meets, not only upon his own  
but these Affairs. <sup>He asks an hundred questions, but does</sup> ~~He asks an hundred questions, but does~~  
not wait for an Answer to any one of <sup>them</sup> ~~his~~ speech is  
rapid, & unconnected. ~~He passes~~ <sup>He passes</sup> from one  
subject to another until he touches upon  
twenty different Subjects in a minute. Should  
an acquaintance or even a stranger pass  
by at this time - he arrests ~~him~~ <sup>him</sup> - inquires  
after ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> family - and ~~disgorges~~ <sup>rambles into</sup> with him  
many different Subjects as in his first  
interview with the first person he met  
in the morning. He is <sup>& good tempered</sup> quarrelsome  
& ~~friendly~~ <sup>malicious</sup>, & friendly, generous,  
~~generous, amiable and~~  
and enviously all in the course of the same  
day. His mind may be considered as a  
Ballon - at the mercy of every impulsion  
that acts upon it. This state of mind  
is constant in some people, but it  
occurs more frequently in paroxysms, &c



*[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

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is sometimes succeeded by low spirits.

I said formerly that Hysteria consisted in immobility of the nervous & muscular system. The disease I have described is occasioned by a similar mobility in those parts of the brain which are the seats of the mind. This mobility you may recollect I said consisted in an excess & Union of Irritability & sensibility.

The Remedies for this disease ~~are~~ when attended with great excitement as it generally is - are vs: - low diet - purges, and all the other Remedies for abstracting excitement from the brain in intellectual madness. —

~~In the second~~ When the disease is periodical, <sup>the</sup> tonics ~~for encephalitis~~ should







be given in its <sup>5</sup> intervals.

~~when proper~~

go to Dis cases of

menstru-  
opposite p: 556.



to give the best evidence  
of the power of the  
human mind  
to overcome the  
weakness of the  
body



